

Purchase of pilotless planes from Israel

1867. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to purchase Hermes-450s and the Searcher-III models pilotless planes from Israel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether demonstration flights of these planes have been held;

(d) if so, the results thereof;

(e) whether development of the 'Lakshya and Nishant' Pilotless Target Aircrafts have been running behind the schedule;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) Lakshya-(Pilotless Target Aircraft) The development project has already been completed successfully.

Nishant-The development program has suffered some delays.

(f) and (g) The Nishant project is now expected to be completed in 2001. The main reasons for the delay are technological problems associated with indigenous developments.

Rehabilitation of Martyr's Families Killed During Kargil War

1868. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken for rehabilitation of the families of those killed during the Kargil war;

(b) whether it includes any monetary compensation as well; and if so, the amount thereof; and

(c) whether Government have monitored the actual implementation of these measures; if so, the result of the same?